

*They've got the beat*

# Kindermusik kids discover the music within

Story and photos by Melanie Casey

Part preschool, part music class and part physical education, Kindermusik classes are much more than sing-a-longs.

The students in Monica Zazworsky's "Imagine That" Kindermusik class for 3-to-5-year olds, for instance, recently visited a toy store and an ice cream shop (if only in their imaginations), chugged like a train, jumped, danced and, of course, sang songs. They also learned a new word—in French.

Likewise, in Jennifer Buxkemper's "Our Time" class for 18 month- to 3-year-olds a few days later, "choo choo" was the word of the day, and students pretended to be trains as they danced and sang their way around the classroom.

## History

Kindermusik (originally called *Musikalische Fruherziehung*) was developed in West Germany during the 1960s by a group of music educators seeking to help

"children experience the joy of learning music before beginning formal music instruction" according to information on the program's Web site ([www.kindermusik.com](http://www.kindermusik.com)).

The program was renamed Kindermusik when it expanded to the United States during the 1970s. Since that time, it has become the world's leading music and movement program for children from birth through age 7, Zazworsky said.

## Philosophy

• Kindermusik's philosophy includes the following:

• Parents are a child's most important teachers.

• Every child is musical.

• The home is the most important learning environment.

• Music nurtures a child's cognitive, emotional, social, language and physical development.

• Every child should experience the joy, fun and learning which music brings.

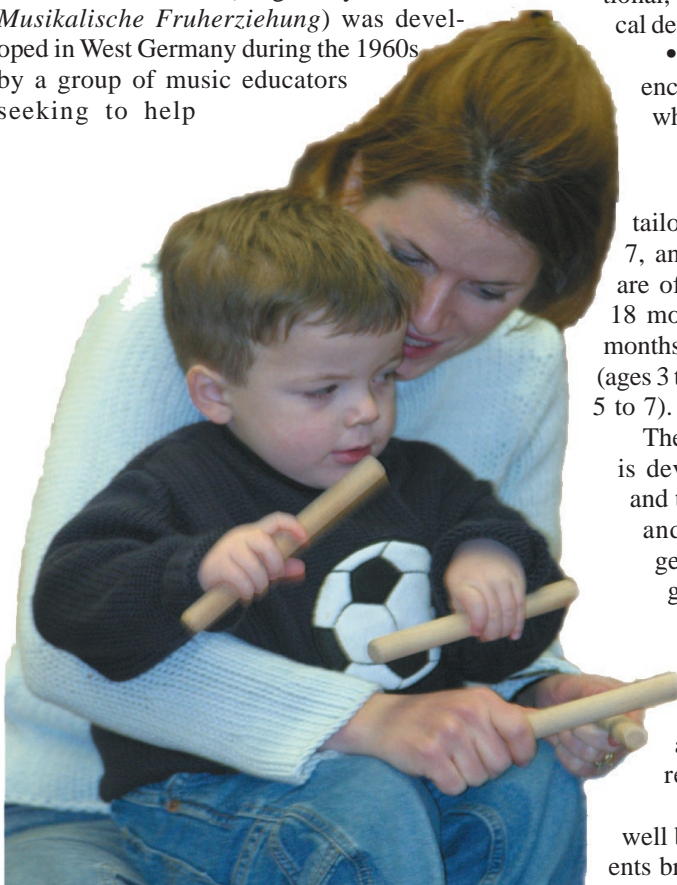
## Classes

Kindermusik classes are tailored for children up to age 7, and four different programs are offered: Village (ages up to 18 months); Our Time (ages 18 months to 3 years); Imagine That (ages 3 to 5); and Young Child (ages 5 to 7).

The curriculum in each class is developmentally appropriate and thus the tone, pace, rhythm and songs incorporated are geared for that particular age group.

Parents learn infant massage in a class for babies, for instance, and older students learn to play an instrument such as the recorder.

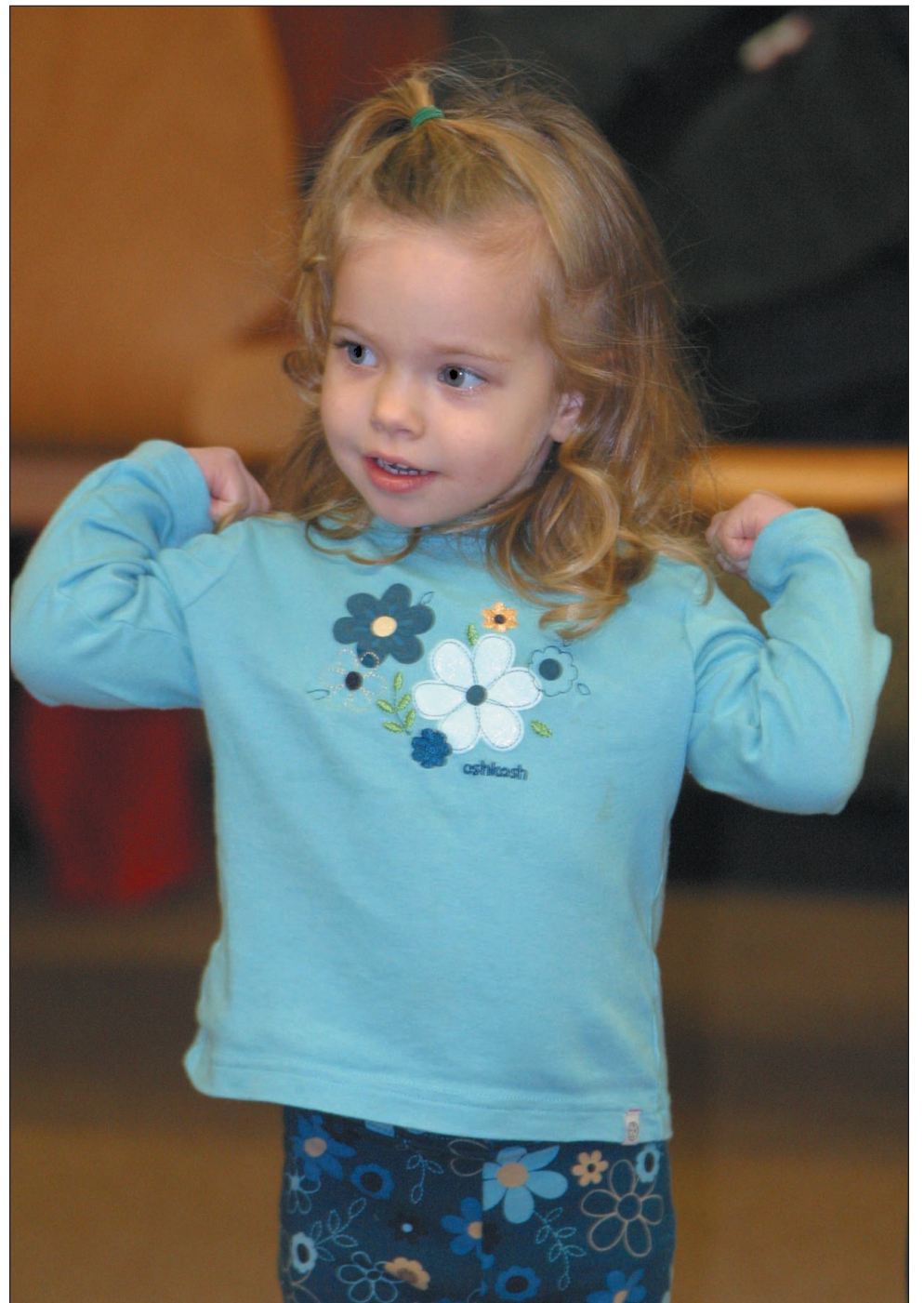
But the instruction extends well beyond the classroom. Parents bring the lessons home with a box full of materials—including



Jackson Bracknell, 2, plays the sticks with his mother Rebecca during a Kindermusik class on Kelley Barracks.



Kindermusik instructor Monica Zazworsky rummages through a box of goodies as 4-year-olds (from left) Nicholas Galles, Jennifer Hunt, Jessica Sydnes and 3-year-old Jasmine Sydnes look on.



Emily Brunet, 2, acts out a song and looks to Kindermusik instructor Jennifer Buxkemper during an "Our Time" Kindermusik class on Kelley Barracks.

### Village: Hickory Dickory, Tickle and Bounce (ages newborn to 18 months)

- Tuesdays, 10 to 10:45 a.m., Kelley Entertainment Branch
- Wednesdays, 9:30 to 10:15 a.m., Patch Youth Services
- Thursdays, 9:30 to 10:15 a.m., Robinson Barracks Youth Services

### Our Time: Away We Go (ages 18 months to 3 years)

- Wednesdays, 10:30 to 11:15 a.m., Patch
- Thursdays, 9:45 to 10:30 a.m. and 10:30 to 11:15 a.m., Kelley
- Thursdays, 10:30 to 11:15 a.m., RB

### Imagine That: Toys I make, Trips I Take (ages 3 to 4)

- Mondays, 10 to 10:45 a.m., Kelley
- Tuesdays, 1 to 1:45 p.m., Patch

For more information, or to register for classes held on Patch and RB, call Monica Zazworsky at 0715-863-130.

For classes on Kelley call Jennifer Buxkemper at 0711-726-1216.



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